

# THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



Welcome one another, therefore,  
just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

**July 2022**

## **Our Mission**

*"To grow followers of  
Jesus who change the  
world."*

## **Our Vision**

*"To be a safe harbor  
along life's journey."*

The **PORT**  
A safe harbor along life's journey.

# Pastor's Message

June was a month to remember. Some of our members transitioned from life to death. Eternal rest be upon them and let perpetual light shine upon them. Also in June, Pam and I represented The Port at the Minnesota Annual Conference in St. Cloud, Minnesota. It was a worthwhile experience. Pam did a great job sharing highlights from the conference on pages 4-5 of this issue.

In addition, I enjoyed participating in graduates' open houses. I witnessed well-dressed and happy graduates. The hospitality I received was awesome. I met wonderful people. I hope they will visit the church someday soon. Everyone at the open houses seemed happy—people were engaged in conversation and laughter. I loved the various pictures and displays telling stories about the graduates' lives. The food was amazing. I had the best homemade pancakes and fresh fruit. The tacos and the Italian dishes were delicious too. (I will stop describing all the other dishes before you start getting hungry.) I am grateful to God and to the families for honoring their kids. You put on the best parties! Graduates, may God continue to be with you.

The Port, I left those open houses thinking about church. I wondered if the church is an "open house." What do you think? Do you think everyone feels welcome? Do you think we share our best hospitality? Do you think we put smiles on people's faces? Do you think we are telling and living the gospel? What do you think?

In Matthew 22:37-40, "Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like this: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments." The Port, we are living this scripture but in our comfort zones. I wonder why. I am struggling to answer. God Almighty, why is it so difficult to live this text outside of our comfort zones? God Almighty, what do we need to do to live this text out of our comfort zones? May you each ask God as well. I believe God will show us the ways to live this text outside of our comfort zones. I believe the church is an open house for all to experience the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Port, with the crescendo of neighborhood lawnmowers, the smell of food cooking on the grill, and the prospect of finding a new swimming suit, one thing is sure: summer is here! Like many of you, I am looking forward to outdoor activities and vacations. I want you each to enjoy the summer—but don't vacate church. While on vacation, you are invited to watch The Port's livestreaming worship. (See enclosed calendar for link.) You are encouraged to read the Bible and pray. I recommend continuing Faith 5, like we do at church. Please share it with friends.

During the summer, we will have two outdoor worship services with a picnic. The first outdoor worship will be Sunday, July 31, and then again on Sunday, August 28, both at 10:00 am.

Jesus, we confess as a church that we want to know You more. We commit to prioritizing discipleship, to actively participating in the study of God's Word, personally and collectively. God, come alongside us and mold and make us more like Jesus. May we strive to present this body mature in Christ. Help us to grow! Give us a passion and zeal for the Bible and prayer—feed us, strengthen us and move us when necessary so that we are people of faith, full of grace and truth. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor Henry Dolopei



## Welcome Deinah L. Quire to The Port as Minister Intern

We are glad to have you here. We looked forward to experiencing your gifts and talents this summer. May God bless you on this journey. Amen.



# Spiritual Growth

## JULY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Greeter/ Welcomer	Volunteer Needed	Megan Mahre	Neil Anderson	Pat Ekstrom	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Trenton Olson Laurette Lawson Jacob Lawson	Bruce Benson Myron Karki Ginny Karki	Scott Swenson Pat Ekstrom Terry Wells	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Kathy Soucy	Pat Ekstrom Beth Cameron Steven Johnson
Reader	Tim Hagerty	Scott Rice	Pat Ekstrom	Katelyn Hagerty	Neil Anderson
Sound	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre
Media	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream Tech	Daisy Castro	Scott Swenson	Tim Hagerty	Blake Mahre	Tim Hagerty
Closer	Scott Swenson	Paul Richardson	Tom Wellman	Clinton Andrus	Steve Knopp
Counters	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose JoAnne Volden	Pam Rose JoAnne Volden	Pam Rose JoAnne Volden
Communion Stewards	Dan & Tracy Baker	<p><b>Will You Serve on Sundays?</b></p> <p>Please let the church office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>			
Communion Servers	Henry D. Jr. Leo C.				

# Mission Outreach

## July Mission Outreach Project— School Supplies for Valley View

It seems the school year just ended and already it is time to start thinking about the new school year. During July we are collecting school supplies for Valley View Elementary School.

The teachers are in need of the following: Crayola markers, dry erase markers, glue sticks, crayons, colored pencils, wide-ruled notebooks, ear buds or headphones, Clorox wipes, and Kleenex.

Please bring these items to church and put them in the shopping cart in the narthex. Thank you so much for your continued support of Valley View.

~Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair



# The United Methodist Church

## Attending Minnesota Annual Conference

by Pam Rose

Pastor Henry Dolopei and I attended the Annual Conference. This was my first experience as an in-person lay delegate. However, Pastor Henry went as a veteran attendee.



Tuesday morning's opening session consisted of worship, remembering the saints (I believe Georgina Wittstruck was mentioned as a pastor's spouse?), two wonderful special guests: poet Joe Davis (author of 'We Rose Higher') and singer Rachel Kurtz, and lunch. In the afternoon session, we were presented with the state of the church, reviewed legislation and listened to the missional report. In the evening session, the service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination was held.

Wednesday started with worship, the message was provided by Rev. Bruce Kronen and the Love Offering was taken. After a 'joy break', the morning session had presentations, table conversations and legislation. For lunch, Pastor Henry and I attended the interest group, multi-Cultural clergy and laity. **There we learned of an event to be held on October 6, 2022, that will be an immersion experience sponsored jointly by the MAC Racial Justice Coordinator and the Committee on Native American Ministries to visit Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Sacred Space in Onamia, Minnesota.** The afternoon session

wrapped up the legislative session. The last session was the Episcopal Address by Bishop Bard, honoring retiring clergy, and communion.

My favorite part of Annual Conference was the gatherings with amazing music and speakers. Also, it was fun to visit with the various church organizations that had displays set up throughout the halls. Please feel free to ask me about materials I picked up. Thank you for sending me this year.

*The remainder of this article is from [minnesotaumn.org](https://minnesotaumn.org) and summarizes this year's conference highlights, written by Christa Meland, Director of Communications for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.*

**Theme:** Drawing on Psalm 23 and John 10:10-11, the theme was "Jesus: Healer." We are a people and a world in need of healing beyond our doing. God invites us to come sit by still waters, and to allow God to restore our soul. At this annual conference, we explored some ways in which we have seen or experienced God's healing, and ways in which we are providing hope and healing to a hurting world.

**Bishop's Episcopal Address:** In his Episcopal Address to the Minnesota Conference, Bishop David Bard reminded us of the biblical story of Jesus healing a boy possessed by a demon (Mark 9:14-29). In this story, the pain and suffering are real, and so is the healing. If we're to let such stories speak to us, we need to grapple with their challenges in the context of lives where healing doesn't happen or doesn't happen the way we may want it to. Perhaps for us as a conference, he said, our way into the future is to follow Jesus on a healing journey where our souls are made large, our hearts capacious, our minds expansive, where we can hold together creatively spaciousness and direction, clarity and complexity, and where cure is care and being steeped in the love of God as we know it in Jesus, the grace of God, God's dream and desire for the world.

**Milestones in ministry:** Attendees participated in the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination at which 19 clergy were recognized for milestones in ministry. They also remembered 22 clergy and spouses who have died within the past year. At the end of the two days, attendees also recognized and gave thanks

for 18 retiring clergy who have together contributed 496 years of faithful service.

**Diversity and inclusion legislation:** Annual Conference members overwhelmingly approved four pieces of legislation focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). One charges to the conference to contract with an outside auditor who has experience in DEI work to perform an equity audit of human resources at the conference level to increase equity in hiring practices, employee compensation and procedures, and employee recruiting and retention at the conference level. Another charges the Cabinet to prioritize the recruitment of candidates of color and LGBTQIA+ candidates for open positions to create a more diverse conference leadership team. And a third stipulates that the conference’s part-time racial justice organizer position will be made into a full-time, director-level position on the Extended Cabinet by January 2023. Meanwhile, voting members approved by a margin of 339-36 a piece of legislation that calls for the Minnesota Conference to hold a storytelling space before the 2026 Annual Conference that would allow Minnesota United Methodists to tell stories that resulted from the Book of Discipline policy stating that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.

**Discontinuing and disaffiliating churches:** Attendees voted to ratify the terms of disaffiliation agreements made between the conference Board of Trustees and three local churches (Crossroads Church in Lakeville and Inver Grove Heights, Redeeming Grace Community Church in Lake City, and HillSpring Church in New Prague). They have discerned that their path goes a different direction from the Minnesota Annual Conference. In 2019, an amendment was added to

the United Methodist Book of Discipline allowing churches to disaffiliate through December 2023 over disagreement about human sexuality. “We have sharp disagreements about the shape of ministry, but we can trust one another to God’s grace,” Bishop David Bard said after the disaffiliation votes. Meanwhile, attendees gave thanks for the ministries and legacies of faith of five churches (Lanesboro UMC, St. James UMC, Spirit River Community Church in Isanti, Sunrise UMC in Moundsview, and West Bethel UMC) that have closed over the past year.

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**Love Offering:** Conference members, on behalf of their churches, also gave \$27,206 to the 2022 Love Offering, which will address food insecurity by supporting three Minnesota United Methodist food ministries, (17% each: Holy Grounds at Centenary UMC in Mankato, Simpson Food Pantry in Minneapolis, West African Family and Community Food Shelf in Brooklyn Center) and assist those in need in our nation and world by supporting Red Bird Missionary Conference in Appalachia (40%) and Volunteers in Mission trips (10%). You may continue to donate throughout 2022.



Watch a short video of Conference highlights here: <https://vimeo.com/714170524>

## Congregational Care

### We celebrate YOU during JULY

If you have a birthday during the month of July but your name isn’t on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 01 - Nancy Hagerty  | 25 - Linda Knopp    |
| 07 - Katy Fischer   | 26 - Samantha Baker |
| 10 - Bea Batchelor  | - Jocelyne Medzagoh |
| 16 - Dorothy Baker  | 27 - Wayne Andersen |
| 22 - Steven Johnson | - Tim Madsen        |



### Address Updates

Kathy Soucy’s email has changed to [ksoucy56@gmail.com](mailto:ksoucy56@gmail.com)  
*Congratulations to Kathy on her retirement!*



## One Great Day of Music 2022

Last month The Port enjoyed a wide range of beautiful music at our annual tradition “One Great Day of Music.” Songs of joy, faith, and thanksgiving were shared by our whole congregation as well as the following: Sanctuary Choir; Sonrise Singers; Children’s Choir; Music Director Peggy Larson; Accompanist Dale Miller; the Richardson-Mahre family, including solos by Judy, Megan, and Blake; and instrumentalists, Mike Moreland (bass guitar), Tim Madsen (drums/percussion), Josué Gonzalez (percussion), and Peggy Larson (ukulele). Thank you singers and musicians for this special worship service!







If you would like to join, or just try, one of The Port's choirs this fall, please reach out to Peggy Larson, Judy Richardson-Mahre, or the church office and we will connect you with on of them!

*Special thank you to Janene Haugen for all of these One Great Day of Music photos.*

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



**GIVE+**  
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am  
with Sunday School during worship.

**Staff**

Rev. Henry Dolopei, II (Pastor) [hdolopei@paumc.org](mailto:hdolopei@paumc.org) 952-888-6070; Cell: 203-508-4874 (when urgent)  
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>



# JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch">https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch</a></p>		1	2
3 10:00am Worship/ Communion	4	5	6	7	8 6:00pm Softball at North Valley	9
10 10:00am Worship/ Praise Band 11:15am Mission Outreach Meeting	11	12 6:00pm Trustees Mtg 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	13	14	15 Newsletter Articles Deadline 6:00pm Softball at North Valley	16
17 10:00am Worship	18	19	20	21 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	22 6:00pm Softball at Mendakota	23
24 10:00am Worship	25	26 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	27	28 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	29 6:00pm Softball at Mendakota	30
31 10:00am OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC						